

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-24 have been allowed. Claims 25-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,856,974 to Gervais. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons stated below.

At the outset, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-24. The Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner the opportunity to move prosecution of the case forward in the interview that occurred on June 6, 2006.

Written Statement Regarding Substance of 6/6/2006 Interview per 37 CFR 1.113(b)

The Applicants extend appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the pending application with Examiner Chang during the telephone interview that occurred on June 6, 2006. Those participating in the interview were counsel for the Applicants, Tom Lebens and Tim Baumann, the inventor David Whitaker, and the Examiner. In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.133(b) and the manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) §713.04, the Applicants provide the following written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action.

No exhibits were shown or discussed. The application was discussed and in particular pending claims 25-37 that stand rejected. Regarding the reasons for allowance, the general thrust of the Applicants' argument was that the Applicants believed that the recitation of a separate common portion was distinct over Gervais. The Applicants proposed amending the claims to reflect that separate logical channels would be present over a separate physical connection and the Examiner indicated that making amendments to this effect would overcome the pending rejections over Gervais.

Turning now to the substantive rejections, claim 25 has been amended to recite the use of a common physical communication channel. A first domain comprises a first plurality of filters in a first logical communications channel, and the first logical communications channel transmits first data at least in part via the common physical communication channel. A second domain comprises a second plurality of filters in a second logical communications channel.

The second logical communications channel transmits second data at least in part via the common physical communication channel. The first data and the second data physically intermingle on the common physical channel. However, logical separation is always maintained between the first and second data. In other words, and as described in Applicants' specification "[d]ata of all domains or trust realms is 'physically' commingled within the shared or common channel but logical separation is maintained, such that only terminals that are members of a particular domain are able to receive or transmit data within such domain." Specification, page 10, lines 13-18.

In contrast, the Gervais reference teaches the connection of two domains with each domain including separate networks. For instance, FIG. 1 of Gervais shows a domain 104 including networks 118 and 120 and a domain 108 including networks 122 and 124. The domains 104 and 106 are connected to a separate backbone 102. In the Gervais system, there is no teaching or suggestion that the data between different domains can be physically commingled, yet logic separation be still maintained as recited in claim 25. In fact, there is nothing to prevent the transmission of data between devices of different domains in the systems illustrated in Gervais. Consequently, since elements of Gervais are not taught or suggested by Gervais, it is believed that claim 25 is allowable over the Gervais reference.

Independent claim 33 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 25 and it is believed that claim 33 is allowable over Gervais for the same reasons as those stated above with respect to claim 25. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly upon claims 25 and 33. Since claims 25 and 33 are allowable, it is believed that the remaining dependent claims are also allowable.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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